**Development of agro-based industries**

2273. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the measures taken and now contemplated by Government to push up agro-based industries which also have high export potential;

(b) whether Government have worked out or contemplating tax incentives for such industries with high labour intensive potential; and

(c) whether any overall perspective detailed plan has been worked out for the development of agro-based industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) Government have extended the delicensing facility available to Monopoly and Restrictive Trade Practices (MRTP)|Foreign Exchange Regulation Act (FERA) companies for setting up certain food processing industries in Category 'A' backward districts to Categories 'B' and 'C' backward districts also. Broad-banding facility in the fruits and vegetable products industry and other processed foods industry falling under Serial Nos. 27(1) to 27(5) of the Schedule of the I (D&R) Act has also been introduced.

(b) Government have neither worked out nor contemplating any specific incentives relating to direct taxes for such industries which have high labour intensive potential.

(c) In the budget for 1989-90, a number of concessions in respect of excise duty and custom duty have been extended to the food processing industries.

**Winding up of District Rural Development Agencies**

2274. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs) are being wound up;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether such a winding up is likely to affect the employees in DRDAs; and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken to provide alternate employment to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (d) While there is no proposal to wind up the DRDAs, there are suggestions for the merger of DRDAs with the Zila Parishad and infact, in one State they have already been merged with Zila Parishad.

Even where DRDAs do not continue as separate entities, Rural Development Programmes would continue to be implemented through an administrative structure capable of absorbing the services of existing DRDA employees. Therefore, there seems to be no reason for employees of DRDAs feeling insecure about their future. This has been brought to the notice of the State Governments also.

2275. [Transferred to the 7th August, 1989]

**Incorrect water bills to consumers**

2276. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that with the introduction of computer billing, the water bills for Delhi Municipal area are not correctly prepared and sent to consumers without any check with the result that the Government are losing several lakhs and also puting the consumers to unnecessary problems; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Delhi Water Supply & Sewage Disposal Undertaking has reported that there are